



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

DEC 12 2014

OFFICE OF
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Reply to: OCE-133

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Jeff Backlund
North Pacific Seafoods, Inc.
4 Nickerson, Suite 400
Seattle, Washington 98109

Re: July 15, 2014, NPDES Compliance Inspection
NPDES ID Number AKG520039

Dear Mr. Backlund:

On behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to express my appreciation for your time and cooperation during the July 15, 2014, federal Clean Water Act inspection of your Red Salmon facility in Naknek, Alaska. The purpose of the inspection was to gather information regarding your operation as part of an overall and ongoing evaluation of the compliance status of your facility with the Clean Water Act and the Seafood General Permit. During the inspection, EPA found the following violations:

Bypass and Grind Size: Part V.C.1.b of the Permit states "A permittee shall route all seafood processing wastes through a waste conveyance and treatment system. The waste solids discharged from its outfall(s) shall not exceed one-half (0.5) inch in any dimension."

During the inspection, the inspector noted that on May 3, June 26, and June 28, 2014, the facility reported exceedences of the 0.5 inch grind size. In addition, on July 1, 2014, the facility bypassed the grinder system twice. According to the noncompliance reports provided to the EPA inspector, the bypasses included three gallons and two gallons of fish waste, respectively. Also, during the EPA inspection, an effluent sample was collected and the sample contained pieces of seafood waste up to five inches long, which exceeds the 0.5 inch grind size.

Failure to route all seafood processing waste through a waste conveyance and treatment system and failure to grind waste to 0.5 inch are violations of Part V.C.1.b of the Permit.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

As a result of these violations, EPA requests that North Pacific Seafoods, Inc. submit copies of the following for its Red Salmon facility:

1. APDES Annual Reports from 2010 through 2013, as required by Part VI.B of the Permit;

2. Monitoring logs from 2010 through 2014 for the grinder, waste conveyance system, sea surface, and shoreline, as required by Parts V.C.1.d, V.C.1.e and VI.D. of the Permit;
3. All noncompliance reports from 2010 through 2014, as required by Parts V.C.1.e and VII.C of the Permit;
4. The current Best Management Practices Plan, including a facility sketch, as required by Part VI.A of the Permit;
5. Fish tickets for 2010 through 2014, as required by the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

This information must be submitted to EPA within forty-five (45) days of receipt of this letter. This information is requested pursuant to Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318. The information requested above shall be signed and certified in accordance with the requirements of Part IX.E.4 of the Permit and submitted to the following address:


Tara Martich
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, AOO
222 W. 7th Avenue #19
Anchorage, AK 99513

Failure to provide all information requested in this letter, failure to adequately explain the basis for such failure, or making any false material statement or representation in response to this Request for Information constitutes a violation of Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1308, and may result in an enforcement action and the imposition of civil and/or criminal penalties or fines pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319, and Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

It is EPA's goal to ensure that facilities comply fully with their permits, but the ultimate responsibility rests with the facility. As such, we urge North Pacific Seafoods Inc. to take the steps necessary to address these violations and concerns and to ensure that all other aspects of your operation are conducted in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements. Notwithstanding your response to this Notice of Violation and Request for Information, EPA retains all rights to pursue enforcement actions to address these and any other violations.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Tara Martich, NPDES Compliance Officer, at (907) 271-6323.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Kowalski
Director

cc: Mike Solter
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation